

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application and the indication that claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 contain allowable subject matter. The Office Action, however, continued to reject the remaining claims. In response, independent claims 1, 6, and 13 have been amended. Claims 3-4, 8-10, and 14-16 have been canceled. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-2, 5-7, and 11-13 remain pending in this application, and reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

Response To Objection of Claim 13

The Office Action objected to claim 13 for certain informalities. In response, claim 13 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention for overcome this objection. Specifically, claim 13 is amended to specify that the at least one row of I/O circuits is disposed between the loop of I/O circuits and the core circuit region. As described on lines 11-21 in page 2 of the specification, the rows 20, 21, 26, and 27 form a loop, and the rows (22~25 and 28) of I/O circuits are disposed between the loop of I/O circuits and the core circuit region. Accordingly, support for the amended language can be found in at least Fig. 2 and the specification of the present application. No new matter has been added.

Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Iwasa (U.S. Patent No. 6721933). While Applicant disagrees with the rejection, in the interest of forwarding this application to early issuance, Applicant has amended

independent claims 1, 6, and 13 to include the allowable subject matter of other claims.

Specifically, in reliance on the indicated allowable subject matter, independent claims 1, 6, and 13 have been amended to include the respective limitations of dependent claims 3, 8, and 14.

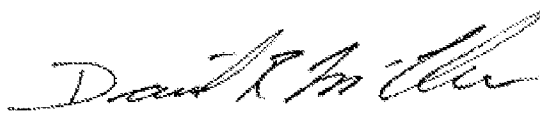
Therefore, claims 1, 6, and 13 as amended are clearly allowable, based on the admissions of the Office Action. All remaining claims depend from claims 1, 6, or 13, and therefore patently define over the prior art for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to FINAL Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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